

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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On December 22, 1978, the Department of State Highways and Transportation became the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). The State Transportation Commission was created in 1978 by an amendment to the state constitution to provide transportation policy direction to the department.

The primary functions of the Department of Transportation are the construction, improvement, and maintenance of the state highway system—the 9,653 miles of interstate, U.S.- and M-numbered highways; the development and implementation of comprehensive transportation plans for the entire state, including aeronautics, bus and rail transit; providing professional and technical assistance; and the administration of state and federal funds allocated for these programs. The director of the department is appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate.

MDOT works closely with the State Transportation Commission, the Aeronautics Commission, the Mackinac Bridge Authority in Mackinaw City, and the Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Authority in Sault Ste. Marie.

The Department of Transportation is composed of 6 bureaus and 7 offices. The 6 bureaus are the bureaus of Aeronautics and Freight Services, Passenger Transportation, Finance and Administration, Highway Delivery, Highway Development, and Transportation Planning.

MDOT's 7 offices are the Office of Governmental Affairs, Office of Economic Development, Office of Communications, Office of Business Development, Office of Commission Audits, Office of Research and National Best Practices, Office of High Speed Rail and Innovative Projects Advancement, and Office of Operations and Administrative Services.

Together, the Bureau of Passenger Transportation and the Bureau of Aeronautics and Freight Services administer Michigan's public transportation and regulatory programs to provide a safe and balanced statewide network of public transportation services to meet the social, safety, and economic well-being of the state.

The **Bureau of Aeronautics and Freight Services** is responsible for the state airport development program, which provides project management for programming, planning, design, safety evaluation, and construction of airports throughout Michigan. The bureau is responsible for carrying out the rules and regulations of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission, including those relevant to airports, aircraft, aeronautical activity, and flight schools. The bureau also partners with railroads and road authorities to ensure public grade crossing and rail worker safety. The program also promotes rail freight accessibility by providing funding for rail preservation necessary to accommodate continued rail service and/or system expansion/improvements to support economic development opportunities and job growth.

The **Bureau of Passenger Transportation** administers Michigan's surface public transportation programs. The bureau provides technical and financial assistance to local transit agencies, intercity bus services, and rail passenger services. (At the time of printing, MDOT's passenger rail programs are being managed within the Office of High Speed Rail and Innovative Project Advancement.) The bureau also regulates the safety of intercity/charter buses and limousines. In cooperation with local transit agencies, the bureau reviews public transportation conditions, recommends appropriate improvements, and establishes public transportation procedures and administrative practices for

statewide uniformity, as required. Administration of the Comprehensive Transportation Fund is also carried out within the Bureau of Passenger Transportation.

The **Bureau of Finance and Administration** provides the internal support necessary for the operation of the department. It is responsible for conducting public hearings in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act of 1969 and managing the department's capital outlay and highway travel information programs. It is also responsible for accounting services, fiscal reporting, fiscal planning, budgeting, cash management, contract administration, bond financing, property leasing, purchasing, stores control, and all related financial functions.

The **Bureaus of Highway Delivery and Highway Development** are responsible for the design, construction, maintenance, and operation of a statewide system of trunkline highways and roadside rest areas and for providing administrative and technical assistance in the design, construction, and maintenance of city and village streets and county roads.

MDOT Bureau of Highway Development is comprised of the Design Division and the Real Estate Division. The Design Division prepares construction plans and engineering data for state highways, bridges, and related structures. It assures compliance with FHWA, AASHTO and MDOT design procedures, principle standards and specifications and administers the federal and state aid programs for local agencies. The Real Estate Division oversees the following for the State Trunkline System: real property appraisal, acquisition, condemnation, clearance, relocation, environmental assessments, management and disposal of excess property, and related appurtenances. In addition, it coordinates utility, highway advertisement, non-MDOT construction and utility installation permitting, and oversize/overweight commercial vehicle transport permitting.

The Highway Delivery Bureau consists of 2 divisions, Operations and Construction and Technology. Construction and Technology provides engineering support, oversight, and technical expertise for projects; develops and implements specifications for construction; and administers the annual capital bridge preservation program and the capital preventative maintenance program for roads. It plans, develops, and implements road and bridge management functionality on a statewide basis. In addition, Construction and Technology develops and implements a quality control/quality assurance testing and materials control plan for the Construction Program and maintains a continuing applied research and development program relative for the design, construction and maintenance of the state trunkline system.

The Operations Division is comprised of Maintenance and Traffic and Safety. It provides specialized skills, technical support, and training assistance to MDOT's regions. Maintenance develops and implements standards of practice for maintenance of the state trunkline system while working towards statewide consistency. Traffic and Safety serves the public's transportation needs through application of comprehensive highway traffic engineering technology; participates in all phases of the department's effort to reduce traffic crashes and injuries, vehicle delay, fuel consumption, pollution, and operating costs by increasing the safety, efficiency, and capacity of the state trunkline system.

The **Bureau of Transportation Planning's** role is to develop and implement a comprehensive transportation planning process which results in transportation investments that are consistent with the financial, social, economic, and environmental policies of the State Transportation Commission. Major responsibilities include: strategic planning and policy development, multi-modal planning, program management, maintaining federal aid eligibility, environmental classification and stewardship, planning for security and mobility, economic development, strategic information technology/tools, asset management, and operations-oriented process support.

Regional Offices — Field operations of the department are conducted from seven regional offices and 26 transportation service centers. The regional offices are located in Escanaba, Grand Rapids, Gaylord, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Saginaw, and Southfield, the latter serving metropolitan Detroit.

MDOT Rest Areas — The department operates 81 freeway rest areas and 82 roadside parks located across Michigan on its state road system comprised of Interstates, M- and U.S.-routes.

The **State Transportation Commission** establishes policy for the department, its programs and facilities, and other such public works of the state, as provided by law. The 6 members of the commission are appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, for 3-year terms. No more than 3 members may be from the same political party. Upon expiration of a term, a member may continue to serve until a successor is appointed.

The **Aeronautics Commission**, created by Act 327 of 1945, is charged with the general supervision of all aeronautics within the state and is empowered to make and issue rules and regulations and issue funding approval of airport development programs relevant to the location, design, building, equipping, and operating of all airports and other aeronautical facilities; governing the curriculum, equipment, personnel, operation, and management of all flight schools; and making such other rules as it may consider necessary to properly carry out the provisions of the Michigan Aeronautics Code.

